REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated July 24, 2009, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

To advance matters, claims 7 and 44-47 have been cancelled. Please note that in the following discussion, citations to figures of the Application and paragraphs of the specification are included only to provide a reference for further clarifying the claims. The claims are not to be limited to the portions that are cited as exemplary support. Other portions of the specification and drawings, which are not specifically cited as examples, may also pertain to the same claim.

The rejection of claims 1, 5-6, 10, 43, 48 and 49 as unpatentable over Okada in view of Pessah is respectfully traversed for reasons to be explained in detail below.

The present invention provides a laser power grid that is configured for wavelength addressing such that each processing element or node (and accordingly a data transmitter or receiver associated therewith) of a data network is addressed by a single dedicated wavelength. It is clear from the description in the present application that such wavelength addressing of the network's node by an input signal of a specific wavelength is carried out independently of a node (signal source) where the input signal has originated.

The laser power grid of the present invention comprises a plurality of CW laser sources generating a plurality of light propagations, each having a wavelength distinct from others; a laser distribution grid comprising optical fiber(s) optically coupled to the light propagations for transmitting them to an input signal; a network of processing elements (PEs); and a plurality of optical-switch arrays. Each PE is addressable by a corresponding distinct wavelength.

The number of optical-switch arrays corresponds to a number of PEs, such that each of the optical-switch arrays serves a respective one of the PEs. Each optical-switch array comprises a number of optical switches corresponding to a number of the light propagations. The optical switches are coupled to the laser distribution grid and are adapted for deflecting a predetermined portion of a single one of the light propagations, distinct by its wavelength, responsive to an input signal such that another PE served by another optical-switch array is designated. This technique enables a wavelength addressing in which every PE in the network is assigned to a wavelength, as a receiving address, and the input signal specifies which one of the light propagations, distinct by its wavelength, is desired, at each of the optical-switch arrays. Each of the optical-switch arrays is adapted to deflect light propagations of different

wavelengths, responsive to different input signals, while the remainder portion of the single one of the light propagations and the remainder of the plurality of light propagations continue to propagate through the laser distribution grid to the other ones of the optical-switch arrays, where predetermined portions of other light propagations, distinct by their respective wavelengths, are deflected, responsive to other input signals.

Independent claims 1, 13, 42 and 43 have been amended to clarify the above novel and inventive features of the invention.

No combination of teachings of Okada et al. and Pesach et al. can result in the present invention as claimed. Indeed, according to the technique of Okada, contrary to that of the present invention, each receiving node is addressed by input signals of multiple wavelengths respectively but in accordance with the network location where these signals have originated (see for example col. 2 line 6-47 of Okada et al.).

Also, neither Okada nor Pesach discloses the feature of the laser power grid of the present invention that relates to deflection of a predetermined portion of the light propagation, distinct by its wavelength, responsive to an input signal, enabling the remainder of said light propagation to continue to power the data network or pass through other

switches on its deflected course, because this would not affect the other PEs as they are adapted for other wavelengths.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention, as now defined in the independent claims, is not disclosed in or obvious from the cited references.

The remaining claims should be considered allowable in view of their dependence from the allowable independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the prior art rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, that the pending claims be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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